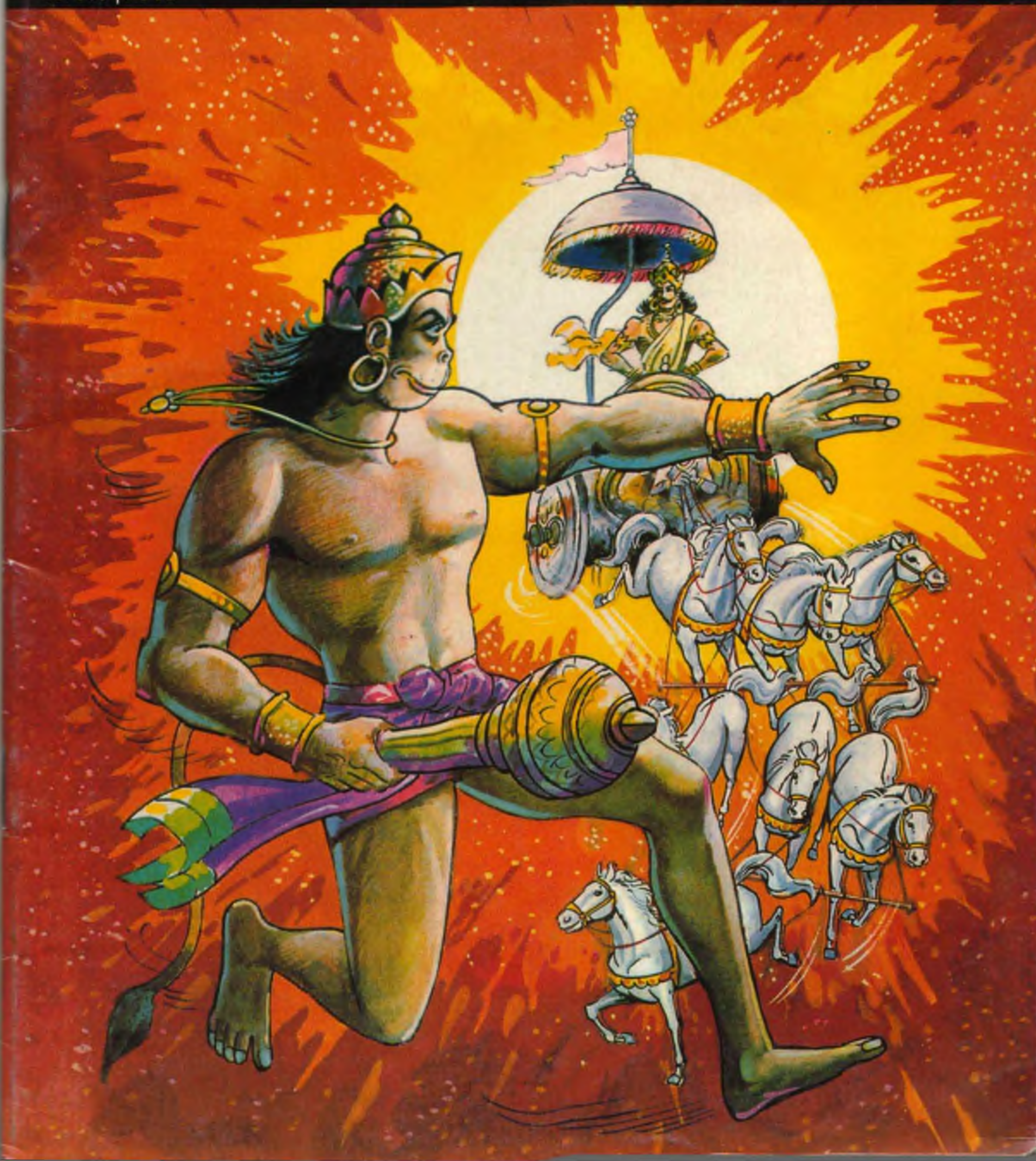
AMAR CHITRA KATHA

HANUMAN TO THE RESCUE

HANUMAN BRINGS THE SANJEEVANI

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HANUMAN TO THE RESCUE
WHEN RAMA THE EXILED PRINCE OF AYODHYA ATTACKED LANKA, RAVANA, THE KING OF LANKA, HIMSELF RODE OUT ONE DAY TO THE BATTLEFIELD.
IN THE COURSE OF THE DAY'S BATTLE, HE HURLED HIS SPEAR AT RAMA'S BROTHER, LAKSHMANA.
EVEN AS LAKSHMANA FELL ...
... RAMA CAME FORWARD ...
... AND DROVE AWAY THE MIGHTY RAKSHASA. .


LAKSHMANA! LAKSHMANA!
OH, MY NOBLE BROTHER... WHERE WILL I FIND ANOTHER LIKE YOU?
SAVE HIM, SUSHENA. YOU ARE A GREAT PHYSICIAN.
LIFE HAS NOT LEFT HIM AS YET. I COULD EASILY REVIVE HIM WITH THE HERB CALLED VISHALYA KARANI.
BUT I MUST GET IT BEFORE DAYBREAK.
WHERE IS THIS HERB TO BE FOUND?
ON MOUNT GANDHAMADANA.


BUT IT WOULD TAKE EIGHTEEN YEARS TO GO THERE AND COME BACK!
I COULD DO IT IN MUCH LESS THAN EIGHTEEN HOURS.
GO, HANUMAN. LOOK FOR A GOLDEN CREEPER WITH BLUE FLOWERS.
IT GROWS ON EITHER SIDE OF THE RIVER WHICH FLOWS DOWN ONE OF THE PEAKS OF MOUNT GANDHA-MADANA.
I SHALL LEAVE AT ONCE.
CAST ASIDE YOUR ANXIETIES, LORD RAMA. LAKSHMANA WILL BE SAVED.


THEN HANUMAN, THE SON OF THE WIND, MADE HIMSELF LARGER AND LARGER...
...AND WITH ONE GREAT LEAP...
...ROSE HIGH UP INTO THE SKY.
AS HE FLEW ALONG, SUPPORTED BY THE WIND, RAVANA SAW HIM FROM LANKA.
WHERE DOES HANUMAN GO AT THIS HOUR? AH! THE VISHALYA KARANI! THE ONLY HERB THAT CAN SAVE LAKSHMANA!

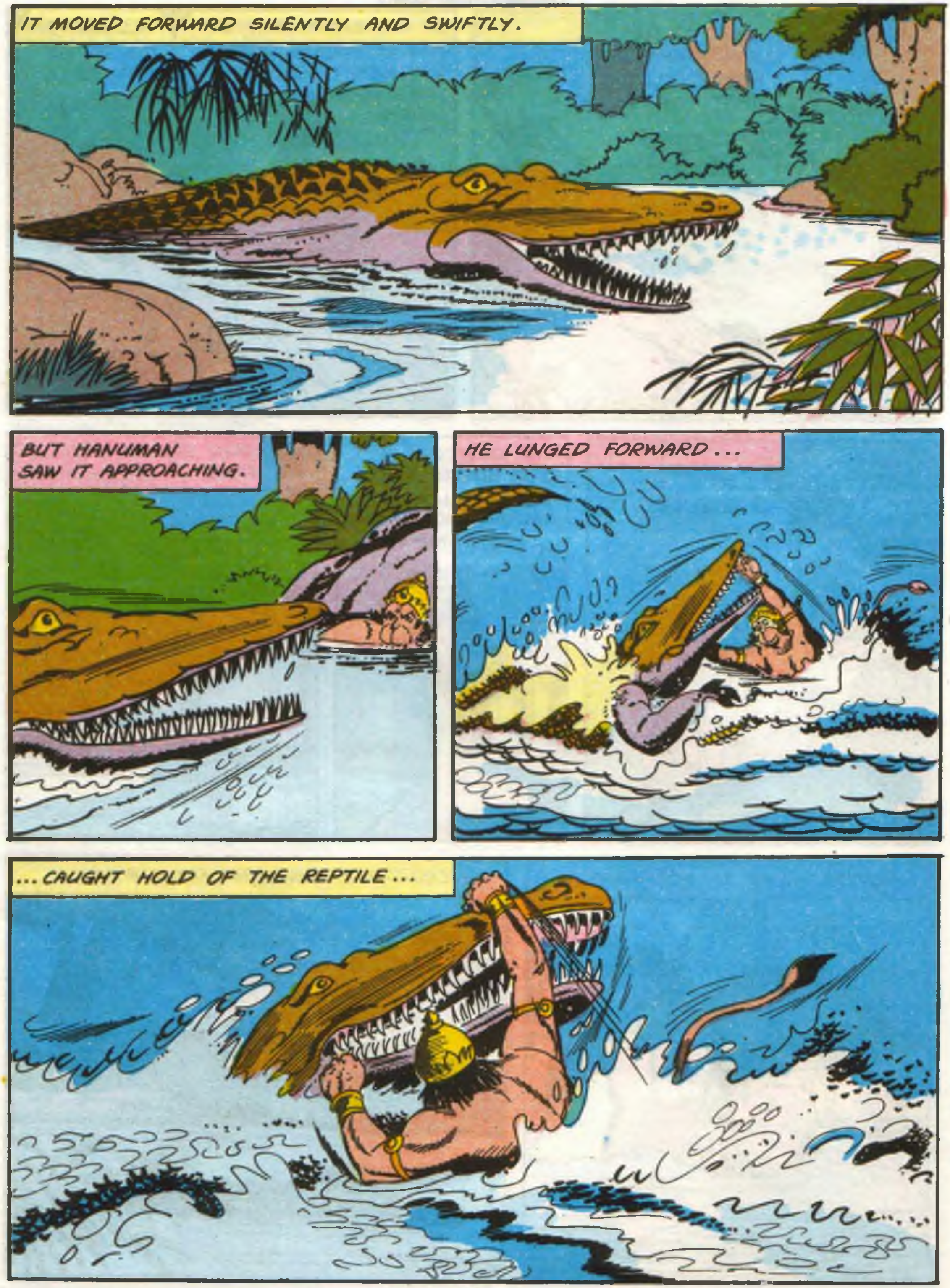

SEND KALANEMI TO ME!
KALANEMI WAS A FEARFUL MONSTER WITH FOUR HEADS, EIGHT EYES AND EIGHT ARMS. HE WAS ALSO A MAGICIAN.
DID YOU SEND FOR ME, RAVANA?
YES, UNCLE KALANEMI, I NEED YOUR HELP.
HANUMAN IS ON HIS WAY TO MOUNT GANDHAMADANA TO GET THE VISHALYA-KARANI FOR LAKSHMANA WHOM I WOUNDED IN BATTLE TODAY.
IF LAKSHMANA DOES NOT INHALE THE FUMES OF THE HERB BEFORE DAYBREAK, HE WILL DIE AND THEN RAMA TOO WILL DIE OF GRIEF.
GO TO MOUNT GANDHAMADANA AND DESTROY HANUMAN WITH YOUR MAGIC.
DESTROY HANUMAN?


I'LL GIVE YOU HALF MY KINGDOM, IF YOU SUCCEED.
OH WHAT USE WOULD THAT BE TO A DEAD MAN? FOR I SHALL SURELY MEET MY DEATH AT HIS HANDS IF I GO AFTER HIM.
UNCLE KALANEMI, I KNOW GANDHAMADANA WELL.
THERE'S A FEROCIOUS CROCODILE PROWLING IN THE RIVER THERE. ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS...
NO, RAVANA! I CANNOT GO TO GANDHAMADANA. THE SON OF THE WIND IS CUNNING. HE'LL DASH OUT MY BRAINS, THE MOMENT HE DISCOVERS WHO I AM. YOU KNOW HOW...
GO AT ONCE!
Y-YES.
WHAT A PREDICAMENT. I AM DEAD IF I GO AND DEAD IF I DON'T.


KALANEMI USED HIS MAGIC ...
...TO TRANSPORT HIMSELF TO MOUNT GANDHAMADANA.
THERE HE TRANSFORMED HIMSELF INTO A HERMIT ...
...CREATED A BEAUTIFUL HERMITAGE OUT OF THIN AIR ...
...AND SAT DOWN OUTSIDE IT.
HE SHOULD BE COMING ALONG ANY MOMENT NOW.
AH... THERE HE IS!


GREETINGS, HOLY SIR.
A GUEST!
WHAT GREAT GOOD FORTUNE IT IS TO HAVE A GUEST!
GO AND BATHE IN THAT RIVER, MY CHILD AND THEN YOU CAN REFRESH YOURSELF ON FRUITS.
I AM IN GREAT HASTE, SIR.
I HAVE NO TIME FOR FOOD AND DRINK. I AM LOOKING FOR A HERB CALLED VISHALYA-KARANI.
YOUR QUEST CAN WAIT.
HOW CAN I SEND YOU AWAY WITH-OUT FEEDING YOU? IF ONE FAILS TO PERSUADE HIS GUEST TO EAT, HE IS SURE TO BE DOOMED.


LOOK AT THE CLEAR SPARKLING WATER OF THAT RIVER.
GO AND BATHE IN IT. IF YOU DO SO, I PROMISE YOU WON'T FEEL THIRSTY FOR A WHOLE YEAR.
ALL RIGHT. I'LL DO AS YOU SAY.
NOW HE'S DONE FOR.
THE CROCODILE WILL TEAR HIM TO PIECES... AND I SHALL GO TO RAVANA AND CLAIM THE REWARD.
HANUMAN WADED INTO THE RIVER ...
...AND BEGAN TO SPLASH ABOUT.
THE CROCODILE SAW HIM FROM AFAR.


IT MOVED FORWARD SILENTLY AND SWIFTLY.
BUT HANUMAN SAW IT APPROACHING.
HE LUNGED FORWARD ...
... CAUGHT HOLD OF THE REPTILE ...


...AND FLUNG IT TO THE SHORE.
THOMP
THEN HE POUNCED ON IT AND TORE OPEN ITS BREAST.
AS HE STEPPED AWAY FROM ITS CARCASS—
WHAT NOW ?
I AM A CELESTIAL DANCER.
ONCE WHEN I WAS DANCING, MY FOOT ACCIDENTALLY TOUCHED THE PERSON OF INDRA.


HE WAS SO ENRAGED THAT HE TURNED ME INTO A CROCODILE... AND DECREED THAT I SHOULD LIVE IN THIS RIVER TILL I WAS LIBERATED BY YOU.
BEWARE OF THE FALSE HERMIT, O SON OF THE WIND!
THE FALSE HERMIT?
KALANEMI MEANWHILE WAS MAKING PLANS FOR THE FUTURE.
I MUST MAKE SURE I GET THE BEST HALF OF LANKA. THE WESTERN COAST COULD GET FLOODED. I'LL TAKE THE EASTERN PART.
AS FOR THE WEALTH IN THE TREASURE HOUSES EVERYTHING WILL BE DIVIDED EQUALLY. SO TOO THE HORSES AND THE ELEPHANTS.
AND I'LL TAKE THE BEAUTIFUL QUEEN MANDO-DARI FOR MYSELF.


Y-YOU'RE BACK!
PLEASE HAVE SOME FRUIT.
THROW ASIDE YOUR FRUIT, FALSE ONE...
...AND PREPARE FOR YOUR DEATH.
I'LL DO WHAT THE CROCODILE COULDN'T.
THE EARTH SHOOK AS THE COMBATANTS WRESTLED WITH ONE ANOTHER.
THEN HANUMAN FLUNG HIS ADVERSARY TO THE GROUND AND...


...COILING HIS TAIL ROUND HIM...
...HURLED HIM INTO THE SKY.
THE RAKSHASA SHOT THROUGH THE HEAVENS LIKE A COMET...
...AND LANDED...
...IN LANKA, AT RAVANA'S COURT.
IT'S KALANEMI! HE HAS FAILED IN HIS MISSION. THAT HERB MUST NOT REACH LAKSHMANA!


SUMMON THE SUN. QUICKLY!
RAVANA WAS THE MASTER OF THE THREE WORLDS AND THE SUN, TOO, HAD TO OBEY HIM. WHEN HE CAME —
LISTEN TO ME. YESTER-DAY, I GRIEVOUSLY WOUNDED LAKSHMANA...
...AND UNLESS HE GETS A CERTAIN HERB WHICH THE SON OF THE WIND HAS GONE TO FETCH, HE'LL DIE AT DAYBREAK.
I WANT YOU TO HASTEN THAT HOUR.
GO AND RISE FROM YOUR APPOINTED PLACE.
NOW?
YES, NOW!
BUT, LORD OF LANKA...


GO!
SOME TIME LATER, HANUMAN WHO WAS SEARCHING FRANTICALLY FOR THE HERB, WAS STARTLED TO SEE A ROSY GLOW ON THE HORIZON.
WHAT! IS THE SUN READY TO RISE?
I MUST STOP HIM AT ONCE!
THE SUN GOD'S CHARIOTEER WAS STARTLED TO SEE A HUGE MONKEY DROPPING DOWN FROM THE SKY AND BARRING THE ROAD TO THE EAST.
HE WHIPPED HIS HORSES ROUND TOWARDS THE WEST.


BUT HANUMAN WAS TOO QUICK FOR HIM. HE DARTED FORWARD ...
... CAUGHT HOLD OF THE CHARIOT ...
... AND BEGAN TO WHIRL IT ROUND AND ROUND.
STOP! STOP!
WHAT'S GOING ON?
A HUGE MONKEY HAS TURNED OVER THE CHARIOT!
I SHALL BURN HIM AND FLING HIM DOWN TO EARTH.
OH-OH! I'D BETTER BE CAREFUL.


WHO ARE YOU, GREAT SIR ?
I AM THE SUN. LET ME PASS.
LISTEN, O DEVA, I AM THE SON OF THE WIND. I HAVE COME TO GET A HERB WHICH COULD SAVE LAKSHMANA'S LIFE.
IF LAKSHMANA DIES, RAMA TOO WILL DIE OF A BROKEN HEART.
DO NOT RISE BEFORE LAKSHMANA IS RESTORED TO HEALTH, I BEG YOU.
MY SYMPATHIES ARE WITH RAMA, O SON OF THE WIND.
BUT HOW CAN I SAVE MY-SELF FROM RAVANA'S WRATH IF I DISOBEY HIM ?
I'LL TELL YOU HOW. COME CLOSER...


AS THE SUN LEANED FORWARD ...
... HANUMAN CAUGHT HIM IN A WARM EMBRACE.
AND BEFORE HE KNEW WHAT WAS HAPPENING BUNDLED HIM UNDER HIS ARM.
THEN HE RUSHED BACK TO GANDHAMADANA.
NOT MUCH TIME LEFT. SUSHENA SAID IT'S A GOLDEN CREEPER WITH BLUE FLOWERS...
... BUT I CAN'T SEE ANY SUCH PLANT HERE.
AS HE WAS WANDERING AROUND, HE CAME ACROSS SOME GANDHARVAS. THEY WERE SINGING AND DANCING.
THEY WILL KNOW WHERE I CAN FIND THE HERB.


GOOD PEOPLE, PLEASE TELL ME WHERE I COULD FIND THE PLANT CALLED VISHALYA-KARANI.
THERE HAS BEEN A GREAT BATTLE BETWEEN MY MASTER, RAMA AND THE LORD OF LANKA. RAMA'S BROTHER LAKSHMANA LIES AT DEATH'S DOOR.
WHAT IS HE TALKING ABOUT?
AND WHAT IS THAT GLOW AROUND HIS ARMPIT?
WE HAVE NEVER HEARD OF ANYONE CALLED RAMA. THE ONLY KINGS WE KNOW ARE OUR OWN—THE GREAT HOO HOO AND HA HA.
NOW TELL US WHY YOU HAVE REALLY COME HERE.
LET GO OF ME.
THE GANDHARVAS CROWDED ROUND HIM, TEASING HIM AND PULLING AT HIS HAIR. HANUMAN WAS ENRAGED.
HE MADE HIMSELF AS HUGE AS A HILL...


...AND STRUCK BACK AT HIS TORMENTORS.
YIEEEE !
HELP!
PRESENTLY, THE KINGS OF THE LAND, HOO HOO AND HA HA CAME TO BATTLE WITH HIM.
BUT HANUMAN PULLED THEIR BOWS AWAY FROM THEM...
...AND BROKE THEM.
PANDEMONIUM BROKE OUT AMONG THE GANDHARVAS AND HANUMAN WOULD HAVE DESTROYED THEM ALL IF HE HAD NOT SUDDENLY REMEMBERED HIS REASON FOR BEING THERE.
I CAN'T WASTE TIME FIGHTING THESE PEOPLE.
RAMA AND THE OTHERS MUST BE WAITING ANXIOUSLY FOR MY RETURN.


WELL, IF I CAN'T FIND THE HERB...
...I'LL TAKE THE WHOLE MOUNTAIN WITH ME.
THERE, I'VE GOT IT.


NOW I MUST RUSH TO LANKA.
RAMA AND EVERYONE ELSE WERE AMAZED TO SEE HANUMAN DESCENDING WITH A HUGE MOUNTAIN.
LATER, WHEN HE HAD LOWERED HIS LOAD, AND EXPLAINED HIS DIFFICULTY IN FINDING THE HERB, SUSHENA HIMSELF WENT UP WITH HIM AND GATHERED THE PLANTS HE WANTED.
THEN THE PHYSICIAN WENT BACK TO THE CAMP, MADE A PASTE OUT OF THE HERBS...
...AND HELD IT TO LAKSHMANA'S NOSE.



AS THE FUMES ENTERED HIS NOSTRILS —
HE IS STIRRING !
AFTER A WHILE —
RAMA !
LAKSHMANA !
LAKSHMANA IS SAFE.
VICTORY TO RAMA.
LATER —
I AM INDEBTED TO YOU, O SON OF THE WIND. NOW PLEASE TAKE THE MOUNTAIN BACK.
I'LL DO THAT AT ONCE.
SO ONCE AGAIN, HANUMAN PICKED UP MOUNT GANDHAMADANA...
...AND SET OFF ACROSS THE SKY.
AS HE WAS PASSING OVER RAVANA'S CAPITAL —
HANUMAN WILL NOT ESCAPE ME THIS TIME.


AFTER HIM !
SEVEN HUGE LION-FACED RAKSHASAS TOOK OFF AFTER HANUMAN.
HE'LL FIND IT DIFFICULT TO DEFEND HIMSELF WITH THAT MOUNTAIN IN HIS HAND. HA HA HA !
THE SEVEN RAKSHASAS SURROUNDED HANUMAN.
LET'S SEE HOW BRAVE YOU ARE NOW.


BUT AS THEY MOVED CLOSER, HE SUDDENLY SHOT OUT HIS TAIL ...
...AND BEFORE THEY KNEW WHAT WAS HAPPENING, COILED IT ROUND SIX OF THEM.
THEN RAISING HIS TAIL HIGH UP...
...HE FLUNG THEM DOWN.


THE SURVIVING RAKSHASA FLED IN TERROR.
HE PROVED TOO STRONG FOR US, O LORD OF LANKA. I ESCAPED, BUT THE OTHERS ARE DEAD.
THIS IS INCREDIBLE!
HE IS MORE FORMIDABLE THAN I THOUGHT.
HANUMAN CONTINUED ON HIS WAY AND ...
... RESTORED THE MOUNTAIN TO ITS ORIGINAL PLACE.
BEFORE I GO, I MUST HEAL THE GANDHARVAS I WOUNDED DURING OUR BATTLE.


HE CRUSHED SOME LEAVES OF THE PLANT WHICH HAD HEALED LAKSHMANA ...
... DROPPED THEM INTO WATER ...
... AND SPRINKLED THE WATER OVER THE GANDHARVAS.
ONE BY ONE THE GANDHARVAS BEGAN TO SIT UP.
WHAT HAPPENED?
WHERE AM I?
LOOK, THERE'S THE MONKEY WHO ATTACKED US!
BEAT HIM!
THE GANDHARVAS RUSHED AT HANUMAN.
HANUMAN DID NOT WAIT TO FIGHT THEM.
HE LEAPT UP ...


...AND SPED BACK TO LANKA.
HIS COMRADES RAISED A LOUD CHEER WHEN THEY SAW HIM.
HANUMAN HAS RETURNED!
AS HANUMAN SALUTED RAMA—
WHAT IS THAT SHINING UNDER YOUR ARM, SON OF THE WIND?
OH, THAT IS THE SUN. RAVANA HAD ORDERED HIM TO RISE BEFORE THE APPOINTED HOUR.
SO I HAD TO HOLD HIM PRISONER.
HOW EXTRAORDINARY! LET HIM GO AT ONCE.


HANUMAN LIFTED HIS ARM AND LET THE SUN GO.
THEN THEY ALL PAID HOMAGE TO THE SUN GOD AND HE DEPARTED...
...TO RISE FROM HIS USUAL PLACE.
YOU HAVE SAVED LAKSHMANA'S LIFE, HANUMAN.
I AM EVER INDEBTED TO YOU.
VICTORY TO HANUMAN!